

REMARKS

In this amendment, the claims have been amended to highlight certain distinctions with respect to the prior art, and in particular U.S. Patent No. 5,822,581 to Christeson ("Christeson"). Although Christeson describes a method for CMOS configuration information storage and retrieval in a flash memory, Christeson does not teach or suggest *a first non-volatile data storage device configured as a plurality of storage regions to store CMOS memory data, and another second non-volatile data storage device to store a mirror image of the CMOS memory data. The first device lacks hardware security, and each of the regions is protected by at least two software schemes. These include a set of one or more region level rules, and another scheme selected from the group consisting of mask bits, checksum, cyclic redundancy check (CRC), and encryption. Examples of the region level rules include which bit of a particular byte in a given storage region holds a mask bit (claim 7), and which byte of a given storage region holds as mask bit, which byte holds a checksum, and which byte holds a CRC value (claim 8).* Christeson only describes that a non-volatile memory device has a block of memory that includes CMOS RAM configuration information programmed therein. A checksum may be associated with such programmed data. However, Christeson does not teach or suggest configuring the CMOS RAM device into *a plurality of storage regions* as recited in Applicants' amended claims, where *each of the regions is protected by at least two software schemes*, as they are recited in the amendment here. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of Christeson is requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.

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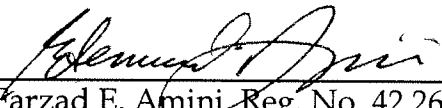
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02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN LLP

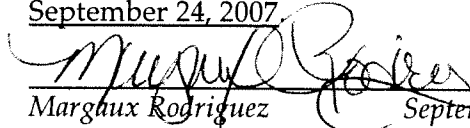
Dated: September 24, 2007

By 
Parzad E. Amini, Reg. No. 42,261

1279 Oakmead Parkway
Sunnyvale, California 94085-4040
(310) 207-3800

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I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted online via EFS Web to the Patent and Trademark Office, Commissioner for Patents, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on September 24, 2007.


Margaux Rodriguez September 24, 2007